

MCA ADVISORY

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An Occasional Publication of Medal Collectors of America

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President's Message Philadelphia, What an ANA!

David T. Alexander

Medal Collectors of America (MCA) enjoyed another successful annual meeting at the 2000 American Numismatic Association (ANA) convention. More than 40 members and interested collectors convened at 3:00 on Thursday, August 10, in the Pennsylvania Convention Center to discuss MCA's progress since the meeting at the 1999 ANA.

A source of great satisfaction to all was the successful launch of the MCA journal, *The Medal Cabinet*, which was in the mail in time for nearly all members to have received it before the Philadelphia gathering. Containing 48 glossy stock pages and bearing a coated stock cover, the first issue has attracted a wealth of positive review and upbeat comment.

The cost of the entire printing was borne by MCA's first corporate sponsor, Stack's, America's oldest and largest rare coin dealers, 123 West 57 Street, New York, NY 10019. Stack's donation made possible the printing of 500 copies of the new publication.

The news thus far is great, but an even greater step was about to be taken. The American Numismatic Society (ANS) has long been involved in the history and art of the medal. Seeing in *The Medal Cabinet* a resource of value to many ANS members, the Society has agreed to underwrite the printing of an additional 2,000 copies of the MCA journal for distribution to the extensive ANS mailing list.

MCA has paid only for shipping the journal from the Florida printer and for postage for mailing to our members. Our mailing envelopes were donated a year earlier. Our new publication has enjoyed dramatic success. We confidently expect a significant increase in membership after all copies of the first issue of *The Medal Cabinet* are received.

Reaction to the first Pete Smith issue of our *MCA Advisory* has been uniformly positive. I heartily congratulate him for his efforts and all MCA members should thank him most sincerely for his donation of time and talent to this important project.

MCA's growth and success thus far is the result of hard work and the pursuit of realistic do-able goals. But what about the NEXT number of *The Medal Cabinet*?! Articles and ads are NOW being sought for the next issue! YOU CAN HELP.

Give us original articles based on your research and interests, notice of new publications of interest to medal collectors, meaningful feature stories about YOUR collecting activities or goals and we'll have enough for the next issue in no time! May we hear from YOU?

Medal Collectors of America

David T. Alexander, President of MCA and editor of *The Medal Cabinet*.

Membership in MCA is \$20 per year. Send dues to MCA at P. O. Box 780, Mahopac, NY 10541. Articles for the club Journal should be sent to the same address.

The MCA Advisory

Pete Smith, editor and publisher of the *MCA Advisory*.

Send letters, articles and ads to *MCA Advisory* at PO Box 18053, Minneapolis, MN 55418.

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Carl W.A. Carlson Awards: 1999 and 2000

David T. Alexander

A highlight of the August MCA meeting was the announcement of this year's Carlson Award. As you may recall, MCA created this award to recognize devotion to medal collecting, significant contributions to modern medal research, successful publishing of articles and books in our field and outstanding support of MCA's goals.

Carl W.A. Carlson was a pioneer in modern cataloguing and research. A former U.S. Army cryptographer, one-time curator of the Garrett Collection at the Johns Hopkins University's Evergreen House, and long time cataloguer for firms including Paramount, NASCA, and Stack's, Carl blazed a trail for all to follow.

The first recipient of the Carlson award was announced at the 1999 MCA gathering in Chicago: John W. Adams of Boston. MCA recognized Adams for his outstanding and ongoing work in the field, which he has enriched by his studies of the Comitia Americana and Indian Peace Medals that are a vital part of American medallic history.

Adams' stellar book on the Indian Peace Medals of King George III was published by George Kolbe of Crestline, California, and has been justly acclaimed both as a contribution to medallic history and as a landmark in book printing and binding in this callous and careless age.

MCA's year 2000 winner is H. Joseph Levine of Alexandria, Virginia. Levine was hailed

as a guiding light in the commercial sector, whose medal auctions set and maintained a high tone of cataloguing and photography. His firm, Presidential Coin & Antique, has done much to direct collector interest and energy into medal collecting.

Levine was author of a highly successful *Guide to U.S. Presidential Inaugural Medals*, published by Johnson & Jensen of Danbury, Connecticut, in 1981. This effort brought its author hobby-wide recognition as "patron saint" of the Inaugural series.

Getting the awards designed and made, then delivered to the ANA was a major project. Catching up with the plaques on the busy bourse area was another epic of human endurance but ultimately worked out successfully! MCA reiterates its congratulations to the first Carlson Award Laureates: John W. Adams and H. Joseph Levine.

Medal Exhibits at ANA

This year exhibits were located near the entrance of the ANA convention in Philadelphia. For most of the show, the exhibit area was crowded with exhibitors, judges and visitors. This is the best showing of public interest that anyone could recall.

Close to the entrance was an 11 case exhibit of "The Medals of Franklin" appearing in the non-competitive class. This invitational exhibit was presented by Phil W. Greenslit, author of the modern reference, *The Medals of Franklin*. Medals shown dated from 1762 to 1994.

Also in the non-competitive classification was a six-case exhibit on "The First Steam Coinage Press." This exhibit was assembled during the ANA summer seminar in Colorado Springs. Many medals shown were struck on the modified press by the prolific George Soley.

Exhibits of medals appeared in three competitive classifications. Class 3 is the general medals class. Class 15 is for Private Mint Issues Since 1960. Class 19 is for Local Interest

Numismatic Material. Medals also could be found among exhibits in other classes.

The following appeared in Class 3 - Medals:

“The Central America Medal” (1 case) The centerpiece of this exhibit is the medal struck by Virginia to honor the heroism of Captain William I. Herndon. This exhibit, placed by Thomas H. Sebring, took first place in the class.

“U.S. National Commemorative Medals: The 1960’s” (4 cases) Commemorative medals replaced commemorative coins in 1954 and by the 1960’s, many such items were issued. The exhibit showed an example of each medal struck during the period along with rare presentation pieces given to sponsoring organizations and VIP’s. This received the second place award for David Provost.

“Numismatic History of the New York Stock Exchange” (4 cases) The history of the New York Stock Exchange is illustrated through tokens, medals and scrip. This third place exhibit was shown by Tom Sheehan.

“Medals of the Wright Brothers” (2 cases) The centennial of the Wright Brothers’ first flight is coming in 2003 and this exhibit provided a look at medals from the past and suggestion of what was to come.

“Medals of PUJA (Worship): A Selection of Types” (3 cases) This exhibit illustrated many styles and types for deities and images found on Hindu worship medals.

“James Madison 1751-1836: A Medallic Portrait” (4 cases) A wide variety of commemorative medals illustrate the life and accomplishments of James Madison as the 250th anniversary of his birth approaches.

“Pony Express Medals” (1 case) This exhibit showed medals struck by the U.S. Mint in commemoration of the Pony Express.

“The Fairy Tale Medals of Karl Perl” (1 case) Austrian sculptor Karl Perl created a series of medals devoted to children’s stories and fairy tales. This exhibit offered an introduction to the topic.

Class 15 - Private Mint Issues Since 1960

“The Making of a Terence Cardinal Cooke Medal” (3 cases) A medal was struck after the death of Cardinal Cooke in 1976. The exhibit discussed the life of Cook, production of the medal and the artist. This exhibit took first place in its class and was first runner-up for the Howland Wood Best-of-Show Award. The exhibit was placed by Steven Middleton.

“Apollo 13 30th Anniversary 1970-2000” (2 cases) This exhibit showed several medals issued over the years to commemorate the flight and safe return of Apollo 13. This second place exhibit was entered by J. Eric Holcomb.

“Bicentennial Celebration - The Tall Ships Operation Sail 1976” (4 cases) American and foreign ships participating in the naval review were illustrated with medals. Vincent W. Alones received third place for this exhibit.

“Transportation (As shown on Red Rose Coin Club Medals)” (5 cases) Transportation on land, water and in the air as they contributed to the history of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, are illustrated on medals.

“Panama Canal 75th Anniversary Medals” (3 cases) A previously little-known medal that commemorated the 75th anniversary was shown.

“Atlantic City, N.J. \$40 Silver Premium Tokens” (5 cases) Every known \$40 silver premium token issued for Atlantic City casinos was illustrated.

Class 19 included two exhibits of medals.

“Franklin and the Institute” (4 cases) Showing medals of the Franklin Institute, formed in Philadelphia in 1824 for the promotion of scientific and mechanical arts. A National Benjamin Franklin Memorial opened there in 1938. This exhibit took first place in the class.

“Spring Garden Institute of Philadelphia” (2 cases) This showed graduation and award medals from the Spring Garden Institute.

Definitions

What is a medal? Let's look at some published definitions.

Webster's New World Dictionary says, "medal - a small, flat piece of metal with a design or inscription stamped or inscribed on it, made to commemorate some event, or awarded for some distinguished action, merit, etc."

Albert Romer Frey had these definitions in *Dictionary of Numismatic Names*:

"Medal. A piece coined for the purpose of commemorating some historic event, or as an award for personal merit. It is never intended to pass as money.

Medalet. A small medal.

Medallion. A name generally given to very large pieces which occur in the Roman series, and which were struck by Imperial authority in gold, silver, and bronze."

The International Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Numismatics by R. Scott Carlton begins with, "Coin-like metallic object struck for purposes other than to circulate as money. Medals are created as awards or commemorations. They differ from decorations which are intended to be worn, while medals are not" It goes on in four paragraphs to discuss medals.

Richard Doty's *The MacMillan Encyclopedic Dictionary of Numismatics* says, "A large, usually round object, produced in machinery similar to that used for minting coins, but struck for different reasons: coins are customarily minted to circulate as money, while medals are struck for award, celebration, or commemoration." Doty goes on for six more paragraphs to discuss medals.

For plaque, Doty says, "A rectangular medal, usually of a commemorative nature."

"Medalet. A small medal, with a diameter of 35 millimeters or less, and a descendent in part of the old jeton."

The *Coin World Almanac* includes three definitions:

"Medal: Usually a piece of metal, marked with a design or inscription, made to honor a person, place or event: not intended to pass as money.

Medalet: Depending on sources, a small medal no larger than 1 inch in diameter or a medal 35 millimeters in diameter or less.

Medallion: A large Roman presentation piece of the fifth century. Sometimes used for a large medal, usually 3 or more inches in diameter."

None of these definitions allows for the "Art" medal. Is it possible to come up with a set of definitions appropriate for use by MCA?

Putting a box around it

We can all agree that Duvivier's "Washington Before Boston" medal is historic and Coudray's "Orpheus" medal is artistic. Is it possible to put a box around the field of historic and artistic medals?

Certainly every collector can and will decide what they wish to collect and what the limits are for that collection. If the Medal Collectors of America are dedicated to the collection of art and historic medals, then the editorial policy of the *MCA Advisory* should follow and include material related to the topic.

Military orders and decorations are clearly not within the box. Does that mean we should exclude everything that hangs on a ribbon. What about ANA convention badges or World's Fair souvenir badges? An exhibit at the ANA convention showed women's badges from the ANA conventions. Should these qualify for discussion in the newsletter?

Should the newsletter promote recent coin club medals that some readers might consider neither artistic or historic? Should some date be used as a cut-off for inclusion.

Do you have an opinion. Here is your forum. We will be happy to print discussion and opinions.

Survey Results

Survey sheets were returned by 20 MCA subscribers. In the first two weeks of responses, it appeared that all returns were coming from names late in the alphabet. It made me wonder if all copies got through the mail at the same speed. Of 18 sheets returned by mail, the distribution by last name goes like this: A-J = 4; K-Q = 1; R-Y = 13. It is the kind of result that drives the statistician in me crazy.

Subscribers reported these areas of collecting specialties:

ANA Badges and Medals
Anti-Semitic Medals
Betts Medals (4)
British Historical Medals
Carnegie Medal
Circle of Friends of the Medallion
Coin Club Medals (3)
Egyptian Historical Medals
Fairs and Expositions (5)
French Historical Medals
Jewish and Jewish Related (3)
Medical Medals
Papal Medals
Papua New Guinea Medals
Political (2)
School Award Medals
So-Called Dollars (3)
Society of Medalists (3)
TAMS Medals
U.S. Mint Medals - 19th Century (3)
U.S. Mint Medals - 20th Century (4)
Washingtonia (2)

Artist

Karl Goetz (2)
Joseph Jacinto Mora
Adam Pietz
Alex Shagin (2)

Topical

Airflight
Apollo / Skylab / Soyuz
Architectural Medals
Cats
Classical Music Composers
Hasty Pudding Club Medals
Holy Year Medals
Liberty Bell
James Madison
New Hampshire Town Medals
New York City
Ships
Statue of Liberty
Stock Exchange Related
U-boats
Zeppelins

Most respondents indicated interest in several areas.

Not all respondents answered the question about the number of items in collections. As one response said, "You must be kidding! I am too disorganized to have any idea how many I have."

These numbers of total pieces were reported: 7, 125, 150, 200, 500, 600, 800, 1000, 1500, 1600, 2500. Although representing few collections, it represents a huge range.

Further Comments on Storing Medals

D. Wayne Johnson

In reply to Pete Smith's comments in July 2000 issue of *MCA Advisory*:

How to store medals? First of all, don't store 'em. Display 'em! There are abundant stands, racks, plastic supports and plate holders that are ideal for displaying medals (admittedly large medals, medallions and plaques are ideal medallic art for display).

I fill up the mantle over my fireplace, put on empty bookshelves (Now becoming a scarce item being pushed aside by endless bookbuying) and even on top of the TV's entertainment center. Live with your medals. Keep 'em out

where you can see 'em. Walk over and pick 'em up. Like robin's eggs that a mother bird is incubating, medals need to be turned over ever so often to expose the reverse for a while.

Also I have a number of favorite galvanos mounted on wood that hang on the wall in my office. And I have a die on my desk as a paperweight. It's a Lincoln cabinet medal die made by Paquet at the Philadelphia mint (and was mentioned by Bob Julian in *Medals of the U.S. Mint*, page 97). He saw it on my desk in 1976, and after 24 years it's still there.

After having said all that, what do you do with the other ten thousand medals you can't display? Final answer: put them in cabinets.

Time honored way to store numismatic specimens and a necessity for medals. After all, ANS, ANA, Smithsonian, British Museum, every major numismatic archive can't be wrong. You won't be either.

Thin shallow trays in tall vertical cabinets. If you can find an old dental cabinet, that's ideal. The best cabinet for medals I ever saw was custom built for the Marquee collection at the Johnson Art Gallery at Syracuse University. Magnificent woodworking, easy sliding trays, firm support and a slant top for display. But I'll bet the woodworker who made this cabinet wouldn't build another for a month's pay.

Pete, you are asking for the wrong thing in trying to buy "jeweler's tissue." What you want is "antitarnish tissue." (It's made without any sulfur used in processing.) However, this is necessary only for medals that are not lacquered, that have coin finish (that is, no finish - like a coin) and are suspect of toning. (You can even buy antitarnish cloth to line your cabinet trays if you wish.)

Generally, large medals, art medals, historical medals, don't need antitarnish protection. Their surface is already protected. Either with a lacquer applied by the maker, or the "patina of time." A medal starts toning about two months after it is struck. In about twenty years it has acquired its protective surface that

can be considered permanent. It won't change much after that.

Medals can be handled (by the edges please - just like a coin, thank you) even though finger perspiration won't effect it. For large medals I like to "cup" my hand under it supporting the weight of the medal and holding it with as many fingers as possible. (A six finger left hand sure would be handy!) Please don't drop the medal - that's rule number one for medal collectors - more damage is done by dropping than any other reason.

If the medallic item is lacquered, keep it away from petroleum products. They dissolve the lacquer. Only toluene can be used for cleaning lacquered items (sold in paint stores as a paint thinner - be sure it says toluene on the label!) Never, never, never use acetone, gasoline, kerosene, or any other -enes to clean medals. They are highly inflammable and destroy any protective lacquer.

Pete mentioned soft vinyl flips. They are excellent. They will not damage lacquered medals and the double-pocket was an inspired innovation for holding a caption card. That's an unsolicited testimonial for Paul Pfeil's line of coin flips. (the old Madison Coin box line). Paul makes them in a variety of sizes and shapes useful for most medals. Even a narrow one for medals hung from ribbon drapes. I put just about every one of the 25,000 lots of medals I sold in my 35 auctions in these flips, as well as all our show stock and much of our inventory.

Now, I would like to lower Pete's frustration level in locating medals since he stores them by size. Pete, put them by topic in cabinet trays. You can have your half-inch Soley medal or the Second U.S. Mint right next to the 3-inch oval Mint medal.

And the delight when you pull out that tray to see related objects all together. That's pure numismatic pleasure.

Another Response

Doug Thurber

I started collecting medals four years ago and immediately realized I was going to have to solve the storage challenge. I'm pleased to tell you I did and share the good word. I'll be brief because I plan an article on this as soon as MCA pub's start rolling.

For medals 55 mm and under, I bond Dansco pages together in two or three page laminations. The vinyl (brown) page cover is carefully removed before the gluing under pressure can work. Also the pages must be from the same production run so buying in the three page factory sealed packages is important. I have a world-class so-called dollars collection in bonded 39 mm pages and of course they're in Dansco albums (custom printed).

For medals over 55 mm I commissioned Dansco to produce three types of new/thick pages. They are:

60 mm 3/8 inch thick Four holes per page

70 mm 3/8 inch thick Two holes per page

Any size up to 125 mm 1/2 inch thick Blank with full page clear slides. You obtain a hole cutter or have a good framing shop cut the hole to allow for your medal Then the slides are slid in to protect it.

My total collection of many, many pieces is protected and enjoyed re this method. I have a Karl Goetz 'Xmas in the Field' series of 22.5 mm to a 124 mm German WW I Ace medal by Eve.

My article will give glue, pressure and tips.

Presidential Conducts Sale

Presidential Coin & Antique Company will conduct Auction #68 on Saturday, October 28, 2000, in association with the Suburban Washington-Baltimore Coin Convention. The sale will feature the Richard B. Dustenberg Collection of Official Inaugural Medals.

Highlights include an inaugural medal for Theodore Roosevelt designed by Augustus Saint Gaudens, a Warren G. Harding medal in silver and a Calvin Coolidge medal in bronze.

A copy of the catalog will be sent to any MCA member who requests it. Please mention the MCA Advisory in your request. The address is Presidential Coin & Antique Company, 6550-I Little River Turnpike, Alexandria, VA 22312.

The catalog includes more than 250 19th century United States Mint medals. There are more than 80 lots in the Inaugural medal section. A fire-gilt James K. Polk medal is one of the highlights. A more modern rarity is the artist's plasters for the 1993 official medal. Also included are Inaugural invitations and programs.

More than 60 Assay Commission medals are included in various medals. The date range offered is 1861 to 1901.

The Mint medals include many Indian Peace medals; presidential, military and naval medals; mint and treasury medals; personal and commemorative medals. These are the types of medals included in any extensive offering of 19th century Mint medals.

The Washington Before Boston Medal (MI-1) offered is the first U. S. Mint restrrike from dies used between 1863 and 1880. A Horatio Gates Medal (MI-2) is an example in white metal struck from the original dies. The Edmund Gaines Medal (MI-13) is silver, from the Garrett collection.

The sale also offers some medals that are not frequently offered in the classification of Agricultural, Mechanical and Scientific medals. Among these are as American Medical Association Davis Medal (AM-5), Michigan State Agricultural Society Award Medal (AM-45), National Academy of Design Award Medal (AM-49), and Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture Medal (AM-73).

The sale will also include Hard Times Tokens, 19th Century Merchant Tokens, Civil War Tokens, So-Called Dollars, Transportation tokens and other U.S. and foreign medals.

What's on eBay?

Worlds Columbian Exposition items appear frequently on eBay and are the topic for this report. It is unusual for their descriptions to include Eglit numbers so they were added by this author.

Frequently offered are the medals struck at the fair by the U.S. Mint. (Eglit 23) They may be called "Treasury Department" medals since that legend appears on the reverse. As many as four examples appeared on eBay at the same time. One seller described the piece as "rare" but did not get the \$9.50 asking price when first offered. On the second attempt, it found a buyer. In other offerings, there was a single bidder for one at \$8.00 and another single bidder for one at \$7.00. Those offered with starting prices over \$10 often went unsold.

Also frequently offered is the "Boldenweck & Co." medal (Eglit 36A). It shows a scene of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on one side and Columbus landing on the other. Probably ten examples appeared during about two months of this study. One in white metal found a single bidder at \$9.99. Another described as "lead" opened at \$9.95 and closed at \$20.61 with seven bidders.

Fairly common are the globe dollars with Columbus landing scene in aluminum. (HK-174) One sold for \$5.00 on a single bid. Another sold for \$9.99, also on a single bid.

Queen Isabella appears on the obverse of Eglit 33. A holed example, 31 mm in aluminum, sold to a single bidder at \$9.99.

Eglit 93 shows Columbus on the obverse and the Arms of Venezuela on the reverse. This silver piece, 2.5 inch diameter, was cleaned. It opened at \$9.99 and closed at \$12.50 to the second bidder.

The bust of Columbus and legend Christov Colon appears on Eglit 224. The reverse shows a crowned woman seated on a globe. This piece in bronze, 27 mm, closed at \$14.99 with one bidder.

Another stained Eglit 224 that was looped with a ring, opened at \$9.99 and closed at \$14.50 after three bids.

The "Irish Village" medal, Eglit 215, found one bidder who matched the opening bid of \$24.99.

Eglit 18 presents "Facts About Chicago" in a 39 mm aluminum medal. One example opened at \$18 and closed at \$26.01 with four bids. Another opened at \$8 and closed at \$23.50 with six bids.

An example of the Massachusetts delegation medal, Eglit 590, opened at \$9.99 and sold for \$29.00 with six bids.

An Eglit 131 with Columbus and Statue of Liberty (HK-207) in 35 mm brass, opened at \$21.50 and closed at \$34.00 with six bidders.

Eglit 55 with bust of Columbus and two seated women with fair scene, 2 inch diameter, opened at \$9.99 and closed at \$51.00 with six bidders.

An example of Eglit 102 was offered with Columbus facing Washington on the obverse and personification of America on the reverse. This piece, 3 5/8 inch diameter in bronze, was holed and had a stain on the reverse. It opened at \$5.95 and closed at \$62.01 with 11 bidders.

An Eglit 37 with woman guiding Columbus, struck in Denmark (Schmahlfeld), 2 1/2 inch diameter in bronze, opened at \$65 and closed at \$71 with three bidders.

A medal similar to Eglit 211 shows the battleship New York and commemorates the 1893 New York Naval Parade. One seller described his white metal piece at 31 mm diameter as "Unlisted in Eglit." The opening price of \$65 found no bid. Perhaps this was influenced by a similar piece that closed three days earlier. It opened at \$18.99 and closed at \$25.55 with four bidders.

The official 76 mm bronze award medal by St. Gaudens was offered once. This example of an awarded medal was spotted and slightly scratched without its case. One bidder took it at its \$100 opening price.

Dick Johnson Compiles an American Forrer

Dick Johnson (who writes under the name D. Wayne Johnson) is nearing completion of a work on all the artists, engravers, diesinkers, sculptors and medalists in America. He is best known for creating *Coin World* (as founding editor) and less well known as the former director of research of Medallic Art Co.

The work contains data on more than 2,800 American artists in a databank that is the equivalent of 1,300 pages. Each artist's entry contains brief biographical data, a listing of every documented coin and medal the artist created, numismatic citations, appearances in auction sales, museum collections which contain the item, and references to the artist and the items in numismatic and biographical literature.

The author has found a publisher of high quality art reference books, Sound View Press of Madison, Connecticut, which has set tentative plans for publishing this work early next year. The firm just published a three-volume set on 65,000 American artists (of all kinds and media).

"I examined Forrer's Dictionary of Medalists and tried to overcome Forrer's shortcomings," Johnson writes. "I list the items in tabular form and group similar items together, all coins together, all medals in series separate, all medals together. In all there are 25 categories.

"What has surprising, however, was the need to separate out restrikes and reissues, since the art of one item would be used later in another form. An example is Adolph A. Weinman's Liberty Walking design on the 1916 half dollar appearing later on bullion coins. This always occurred after the death of the artist, requiring extensive research on artist's vital data, his date of death being most important.

"I also learned one very important fact - 80 percent of 19th century American diestruck pieces are unsigned and their creators are unknown. Thus I welcome anyone's contribution of information on the work of any American

diesinker that documents unsigned items. I am making every effort to make this book as comprehensive, complete and accurate as possible."

It was at Medallic Art he was first exposed to American medalists. "I was responsible for cataloging every medal the company had made," he says. He was staff numismatist and director of research for the firm for over a decade in the sixties and seventies.

His knowledge of the firm's medals was helpful in two auction firms he managed. Upon his retirement from medal dealing eight years ago he returned to writing a book on coin and medal technology. Concurrent with that and beginning five years ago he started compiling the work and biographies of American medalists.

"I was astounded when the number of American medalists reached 1,500 in 1997. This number has now risen to more than 2,800 and might reach 3,000 by the time of publication. The current databank contains 63,739 lines and is growing every day.

Researching 19th century diesinkers was interesting but the most difficult, he says. It required him to search archives at Harvard, Yale, three state repositories, the National Archives in three locations and the studios of dozens of artists.

Questioning living artists about their medallic output proved uneven. Often artists who did a lifetime of medallic work could not remember all the models they had created. Thus this information had to come from other sources," he said.

Already writers on American medallic artists have learned of Johnson's databank and contacted him for information. "Five writers in the past six months have called for artist's records," he says, "I sure hope this portends the usefulness of this book after its published!"

New Medals

Hidden in more than 900 pages of a 1998 Omnibus Authorization Act, are provisions for the striking of gold medals to honor the "Little Rock Nine" and to honor Gerald and Mrs. Ford.

In 1957, Arkansas Governor Orville Faubus resisted a federal court ruling that would have integrated Arkansas schools. He called out the National Guard to maintain order and effectively to block admission of black students. President Eisenhower put the Arkansas National Guard under federal control and sent in a thousand paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division. Nine black students entered the school on September 25, 1957. Governor Faubus closed the public schools in Little Rock for the 1958-59 school year and four of the nine students moved out of Arkansas to continue their schooling.

A gold medal was authorized in 1998 to commemorate 40 years since the desegregation in Little Rock and to honor the nine students. Publicity at the time told of the accomplishments of the "Little Rock Nine."

Melba Pattilo Beals moved to California when Little Rock schools closed in 1958. She attended San Francisco State University and Columbia University. She was a reporter for NBC and worked as a communications consultant.

Elizabeth Eckford serves on the board for the Central High Museum and Visitor Center. She earned a bachelor's degree in history and served in the United States Army.

Ernest Green was a senior in 1957 and became the first African-American graduate of Little Rock Central High School. He earned a bachelor's and master's degree from Michigan State University. In 1980 he worked in the Carter administration as Assistant Labor Secretary for Employment and Training. His story was shown as "The Ernest Green Story," on television in 1992. At last report he was managing director at Lehman Brothers in Washington, D.C.

Gloria Ray Karlmark moved to the Netherlands where she worked as executive director of a Dutch company and publisher of a computer magazine.

Carlotta Walls LaNier graduated from Central High School in 1960, attended Michigan State University and graduated from the University of Northern Colorado. She worked in real estate management and development. She is one of the founders of the Little Rock Nine Foundation.

Terrence Roberts was a junior when he started at Central High School. When Governor Faubus closed the schools for the following year, Roberts moved to Los Angeles and graduated from high school there. He received a bachelor's degree in sociology in 1967, a master's degree from UCLA in 1970 and Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1976. Roberts is CEO of Terrance J. Roberts & Associates consulting firm, a practicing private psychologist and chair of the psychology program at Antioch University in Los Angeles.

Jefferson Thomas graduated from Central High School in 1960. He is an accountant with the United States Department of Defense. In 1966 he narrated a film for the U.S. Information Agency on "The Nine From Little Rock."

Minnijean Brown Trickey was suspended from Central High School and later expelled for retaliation against harassment. She moved to New York and graduated from New Lincoln High School and later from Southern Illinois University. She lives in Canada and works as a freelance writer.

Thelma Mothershed Wair completed her Junior year at Central High School. She took correspondence courses and received her high school diploma by mail. She received a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and master's degree in guidance and counseling from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. She worked in the East St. Louis schools until retirement.

Text of the Act

SEC. 139. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS AND COMMEMORATIVE COINS. (A) LITTLE ROCK NINE. --

(1) The Congress hereby finds the following:

(A) Jean Brown Trickey, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Melba Patillo Beals, Terrence Roberts, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, and Jefferson Thomas, hereafter in this section referred to as the "Little Rock Nine", voluntarily subjected themselves to the bitter stinging pains of racial bigotry.

(B) The Little Rock Nine are civil rights pioneers whose selfless acts considerably advanced the civil rights debate in this country.

(C) The Little Rock Nine risked their lives to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and subsequently the Nation.

(D) The Little Rock Nine sacrificed their innocence to protect the American principal that we are all "one Nation, under God, indivisible".

(E) The Little Rock Nine have indelibly left their mark on the history of the Nation.

(F) The Little Rock Nine have continued to work toward equality for all Americans.

(2)(A) The President is authorized to present, on behalf of Congress, to Jean Brown Trickey, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Melba Patillo Beals, Terrence Roberts, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, and Jefferson Thomas, commonly referred to as the "Little Rock Nine", gold medals of appropriate design, in recognition of the selfless heroism such individuals exhibited and the pain they suffered in the cause of civil rights by integrating Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

(B) For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (A) the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary for each recipient.

(C) Effective October 1, 1998, there will be authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subsection.

(3)(A) The Secretary of the Treasury may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medals struck pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(B) under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

(B) The appropriation used to carry out the subsection shall be reimbursed out of the proceeds of sales under subsection (a)(3)(A).

(4) The medals struck pursuant to this subsection are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) GERALD R. AND BETTY FORD.--

(1) The President is authorized to present, on behalf of Congress, to Gerald R. and Betty Ford a gold medal of appropriate design--

(A) In recognition of their dedicated public service and outstanding humanitarian contributions to the people of the United States; and

(B) In commemoration of the following occasions in 1998:

(i) The 85th anniversary of the birth of President Ford.

(ii) The 80th anniversary of the birth of Mrs. Ford.

(iii) The 50th wedding anniversary of President and Mrs. Ford.

(iv) The 50th anniversary of the 1st election of Gerald R. Ford to the United States House of Representatives.

(v) The 25th anniversary of the approval of Gerald R. Ford by the Congress to become Vice President of the United States.

(2) For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (b)(1) the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

(3) There are authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$20,000 to carry out this subsection.

(4) The Secretary of the Treasury may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to subsection (b)(2) under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

(5) The appropriation used to carry out this subsection shall be reimbursed out of the proceeds of sales under subsection (b)(4).

(6) The medals struck pursuant to this subsection are national medals for purpose of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

Questions and Answers

A new question 5-1: What were the last names of Creighton, Low and Stouffer?

Captain Creighton of the *Three Bells* of Glasgow, Captain Low of the bark *Kilby*, and Captain Stouffer of the *Antarctic*, came to the aid of the sinking *San Francisco* in December of 1853 and January of 1854. For their service, Congress gave them gold medals. Contemporary newspaper accounts, the authorizing legislation and the documentation provided by Loubat, all fail to mention first names. Can any of our astute readers do better?

Answer to Question 4-3: Dave Menchell provided an answer to the question posed in the last issue:

"More info about the gold medal issued as part of the America in Space medal can be found in the November 1989 issue of *The Numismatist* on page 1794, part of Howard Turner's article on National Commemorative Medals. In summary, 250,000 each of a 1.5 inch bronze, 1.5 inch .900 fine silver, and the .85 inch .900 fine gold medal were struck. The medals could be purchased in a three piece set, a two-piece silver and bronze set, or the gold medal alone. The

gold medal obverse was designed by Brian Kachel; the reverse, common to all three medals, was done by Robert Ahlcrone."

Amazing Discovery

"I was amazed to discover that MCA members have no medals to sell." That was the conclusion *MCA Advisory* editor Pete Smith reached after publication of the previous issue of the newsletter. "We offered free ads for members to sell their duplicate or unwanted medals, and not one took advantage of the opportunity. I can only conclude that they have nothing for sale.

Even among our many dealer member-subscribers, no one used the opportunity to offer their medals or promote their business."

Ads (They're Free!)

Wanted: Older US Mint Military and Naval Series medals. French mint strikings also wanted. Please describe and price. COL Marc McDonald, 618 Dental Company, Unit 15652, APO AP 96205.

Interested in early US Mint, Assay and Betts medals, or information relating to them. Dave Menchel, PO Box 656832, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365-6832.

Wanted: ANA membership cards before 1980; ANA membership medals, 25 year - 50 year - 60 year. David Sklow, 8737-C S.W. 97th Ln. Rd., Ocala, Florida 34481.

For sale - a book: *Laws of the U.S. Congress Authorizing Medals*, 84 pages, softbound, giving the text of about 200 laws since 1776. \$13 postpaid. Pete Smith, P.O. Box 18053, Minneapolis, MN 55418.